

For Such a Time as This

A Daily Devotional

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

From Mark 14: (*The Message*)

On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the day they prepare the Passover sacrifice, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations so you can eat the Passover meal?”

He directed two of his disciples, “Go into the city. A man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him. Ask the owner of whichever house he enters, ‘The Teacher wants to know, Where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ He will show you a spacious second-story room, swept and ready. Prepare for us there.”

The disciples left, came to the city, found everything just as he had told them, and prepared the Passover meal.

As Holy Week unfolds, we will commemorate ‘The Last Supper’ with our Service of Shadow and Light. The passage above is Mark’s rendition of the preparations that were undertaken amongst Jesus and his disciples for that meal.

In his commentary on the passage, Presbyterian theologian, William Placher, wrote this:

A Passover meal involved detailed tradition, and the main course was always lamb, in memory of the lambs killed in Egypt to mark Hebrew houses with blood over the front door so that the angel of death would pass them over as he killed the firstborn of the Egyptians. But Mark does not mention any lamb. Does he just skip over most of the meal? Or is the lamb to be sacrificed on this occasion God’s firstborn, Jesus?

Sometimes it is the very thing that is missing that points up the deepest truth ... a lamb-less Passover; an unoccupied tomb. Each time we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we remember that God has provided the lamb for us with the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. Christ’s resolute and determined progress toward Calvary is part of this great demonstration of God’s willingness to give himself to us and for us that we see all through Holy Week.

Though it is not addressed in the gospel, one might wonder if the disciples took notice of the absence of a lamb or if they understood their old tradition in a new light; a light that would not fully dawn upon them until later on the first day of the next week

Prayer for the Day: (From *The Book of Common Worship*)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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